THE TIMES

SE News
HD **Sass, sequins and skills**
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The festivals are about far more than just one-liners ? there are gravity-defying performances to catch and gorgeous freaks to party with. Ashley Davies highlights the best of cabaret, circus, dance and drag

Jungle Book Reimagined

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Akram Khan's inventive company uses dance theatre to retell the Kipling classic through the eyes of a climate refugee. Escaping their homeland, which has been ravaged by extreme weather, a family find themselves in a deserted city that has been taken over by wild animals. Edinburgh Festival Theatre, 7.30pm, Aug 25-27; 2.30pm, Aug 27-28 (eif.co.uk)

Beats on Pointe

Can't decide between street dance and ballet? How about an Australian show that combines both? The high-octane show, above, showcases Master of Choreography's athleticism, acrobatic prowess and grace. Assembly Hall, 7pm. Aug 5-29 (not 10, 15, 22); preview Aug 4; two-for-one Aug 8-9 (edfringe.com)

This Is Not Swan Lake

Granhoj Dans' production could not be further from the traditional story of the swan princess Odette. Instead it takes the point of view of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's wife, Antonina, doing her best in a marriage with a man she adored but who could never admit he was gay. You're more likely to see penguins on stage than swans. Dance Base, 8.30pm, Aug 16-21 (edfringe.com)

Shrimp Dance

This butoh dance performance featuring live music and video art is a meditation on depression, isolation, eco-anxiety and medication. It was inspired by research on how traces of antidepressants that enter the oceans through human waste adversely affect the behaviour of shrimp.

Dance Base, 8.40pm, Aug 5-14 (not 8) (edfringe.com)

Runners

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A giant treadmill takes centre stage, left, as four performers and two musicians run, dance and do cyrwheel acrobatics in this dizzying show from the Czech troupe Cirk La Putyka. All their previous shows in Edinburgh have sold out, so act smart. Zoo Southside, 8.30pm, Aug 11-28 (not 10, 16, 22); previews Aug 5-7; two-for-one Aug 8-9 (edfringe.com)

Hotel Paradiso

If you enjoy familyfriendly slapstick, physical comedy and impressive circus skills, see this extravaganza from Lost in Translation Circus. The story follows a scheming banker trying to take over a beloved family hotel but, naturally, finding his efforts thwarted by the eccentric staff.

Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows, 3.20pm, Aug 6-27 (not 15, 22); two-for-one Aug 8-9 (edfringe.com)

The Tiger Lillies: One Penny Opera

The Olivier award-winning cabaret artists bring their macabre brand of entertainment to a new show based on the 18th-century Beggar's Opera. So you can expect songs about greed, poverty, crime and dark schemes to challenge inequality.

Underbelly Bristo Square, 9.20pm, Aug 6-28 (not 10, 15, 22); previews Aug 4-5; two-for-one Aug 8-9 (edfringe.com)

Muse The Quebecois favourites

Flip

Fabrique return to the Fringe with another gravity-defying show and this time it's all about what it means to be a woman, a man or anything in between. Its performers dress in ballet costumes or American football kits, or perhaps a combination of pumps and shoulder pads.

Assembly Hall, 5.20pm, Aug 5-28 (not 8, 15, 22); preview Aug 4; two-for-one Aug 9 (edfringe.com) Kin BMT (Barely Methodical Troupe) return to Edinburgh for the first time since 2017 with a typically aweinspiring blend of dance, circus and physical theatre. Expect exceptional acrobatics, flying, tumbling, catching, teeterboard, balance and cyr-wheel routines. Suitable for over-fives.

Assembly Rooms, 3.05pm, Aug 5-28 (not 10, 15, 22); preview Aug 4; two-for-one Aug 8-9 (edfringe.com)

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